

Application No. 09/454,770  
Reply to Office Action of December 6, 2005

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Docket No.: 02849/000G277US0

### AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method for delivering a parcel by a carrier to a secure receptacle at a location of an intended recipient, comprising the steps of:

(a) dispatching the carrier with the parcel to the location of the intended recipient in accordance with delivery instructions on ~~associated with~~ the parcel, the location corresponding to the address of the intended recipient on delivery instructions provided by a sender;

(b) the carrier accessing the secure receptacle at the location;

(c) the carrier placing the parcel within the accessed secure receptacle;

(d) the carrier securing the secure receptacle after placing the parcel within the secure receptacle;

(e) the carrier making further deliveries at additional locations after having placed the parcel within the secure receptacle; and

(f) using a scanner positioned within the secure receptacle, automatically registering the placement of the parcel within the secure receptacle after the securing step by communicating placement data comprising at least a portion of the delivery instructions on the parcel ~~concerning the placement of the parcel within the secure receptacle~~ over a communication link.

2. (Previously Presented) The method as in claim 1, including the additional steps of:  
reading a code on the parcel in response to the securing step; and  
storing the code in a memory.

3. (Previously Presented) The method as in claim 1, the registering step including the additional steps of:

accessing a remote location by the communication link; and

conveying the placement data to the remote location;

wherein the registering step is in response to the securing step.

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4. (Original) The method as in claim 1, wherein the secure receptacle has a locked state and an unlocked state, and wherein the accessing step includes the additional step of:

moving from the locked state to the unlocked state in a response to an authorized identifier.

5. (Original) The method as in claim 4, wherein the authorized identifier is received from at least one of: a magnetic strip card, a key pad, and a smart card.

6. (Previously Presented) The method as in claim 1, wherein the secure receptacle has a locked state and an unlocked state, and wherein the securing step includes the additional step of:

moving from the unlocked state to the locked state after receiving the parcel.

7. (Original) The method as in claim 1, including the additional step of generating a log entry in response to the accessing step.

8. (Previously Presented) The method as in claim 1, including the additional step of generating a log entry in response to the securing step.

9. (Original) The method as in claim 1, including the additional step of generating a log entry in response to the registering step.

10. (Original) The method as in claim 1, where in the placing step is performed at night.

Claims 11-39 (Canceled)

40. (New) The method as in claim 1, wherein the step of automatically registering the placement of the parcel within the secure receptacle comprises the step of scanning a label on the parcel to obtain the placement data in response to securing the receptacle.

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